

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION



“First, we [must] recognize that substance use disorders, like other diseases, can be treated. A science-based public health approach is the bedrock for sound drug policy.” -Assistant Secretary William R. Brownfield

The devastating consequences of substance use know no geographic, economic, social, or ethnic boundaries. Each year hundreds of thousands of people around the globe—rich, poor, educated, illiterate, male, female, and even young children—die from substance abuse, and millions more are victims of addiction and drug-fueled violence. Beyond the toll drugs take on health and welfare, substance use disorders undermine economic development, diminish social and political stability, and reduce security in countries around the world.

For over three decades the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) has responded boldly to this global challenge with innovative, evidence based drug demand reduction programs. These include substance use prevention and drug treatment services that have had a tremendous impact and save countless lives.

Through cross-border dialogue and joint projects with foreign partners, INL shares programming ideas and proven approaches that treat and prevent substance use. We raise standards of treatment and care; conduct clinical skills training; and support long-term recovery. Equally important, INL also conducts long-term evaluations of programs as part of a process of continuous improvement and refinement. This approach has made INL-sponsored programs more effective than ever.

INL works with government and partner government-supported NGOs to implement substance use prevention and treatment programs. In addition, INL collaborates with international organizations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Colombo Plan Secretariat, the Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the African Union, and the World Health Organization (WHO) to advance regional cooperation and exchange best practices.

Goals of Demand Reduction

- Decrease drug use
- Delay the onset of drug use
- Lower the number of morbidity deaths caused by drug use
- Reduce drug related violence and criminal behavior
- Diminish the presence of drug-fueled gangs and gang membership
- Establish self-sustained drug prevention, education, treatment, rehabilitation, and aftercare programs in partner countries



**Bureau of International Narcotics and
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